

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 STR-04 FTC-01 JUSE-00 /069 W

----- 126019

R 130435Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7676

INFO AMEMASSY SEOUL

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC HAWAII

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED AFFAIR- REACTION TO PRESIDENTIAL LETTER

1. FOLLOWING CABINET MEETING MARCH 12, GOJ ANNOUNCED FOLLOWING FOUR POINT POLICY ON ACCEPTANCE OF PRESIDENTIAL LETTER: (A) GOJ WILL RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM US ON CONDITIONAL BASIS; (B) NECESSARY MEASURES TO RECEIVE INFORMATION WILL BE TAKEN; (C) GOJ WILL SEEK CLOSE COOPERATION WITH US IN ORDER TO UNCOVER THE TRUTH; (D) GOJ WILL ENDEAVOR TO RESOLVE THE CASE QUICKLY AND THOROUGHLY. (UNDERSTAND DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED FULL TEXT OF CABINET DECISION.) ALSO, AFTER CABINET MEETING JUSTICE MINISTER INABA ANNOUNCED THE DISPATCH EARLY NEXT WEEK OF ADMINISTRATIVE VICE MINISTER SHIOYA TO NEGOTIATE AGREEMENT FOR TRANSFER OF INFORMATION.

2. LDP LEADERSHIP, WHICH HAD BEEN CONSULTED BEFORE CABINET MEETING ISSUED A STATEMENT FULLY SUPPORTING GOJ STAND. SECGEN
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NAKASONE, NOTING THAT PRESIDENTIAL REPLY DEMONSTRATED

UNDERSTANDING FOR GOJ REQUEST AND DIET RESOLUTIONS, SAID THAT FURTHER NEGOTIATION ON CONDITIONS WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE AND URGED DIET TO SET LOCKHEED AFFAIR ASIDE AND GET ON WITH HANDLING OF BUDGET.

3. OPPOSITION PREDICTABLY REACTED STRONGLY, CLAIMING US-JAPANESE COLLUSION IN ATTEMPT TO COVER-UP AFFAIR AND DEMANDING THAT MIKI RENEGOTIATE TERMS FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION. OPPOSITION CLAIMED THAT PRESIDENTIAL RESPONSE COMPLETELY IGNORED THE WILL OF THE DIET AND REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE IN DIET PROCEEDINGS UNTIL ITS DEMANDS WERE MET. JCP SPOKESMAN PROPOSED THAT DIET DISPATCH A MISSION TO THE US TO CONVEY ITS WISHES DIRECTLY.

4. MARCH 13 EDITORIALS WERE GENERALLY DISAPPOINTED AT "SEVERITY" OF CONDITIONS PROPOSED BY PRESIDENT, BUT NOTED THAT THEY HAD BEEN EXPECTED SINCE INGERSOLL STATEMENT, AND THAT GOJ HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT THEM. ASAHI, NIHON KEIZAI AND YOMIURI URGED GOJ TO GET ON WITH ITS OWN INVESTIGATION. NIHON KEIZAI POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, UNRESOLVED ISSUES IN THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US AND JAPANESE LEGAL PROCEDURES OVER TIMING OF RELEASE OF INFORMATION AND URGED THEIR CLARIFICATION. IT ALSO POINTED OUT DIFFICULTY OF OBTAINING PROOF IN POLITICAL SCANDALS AND POINTED TO PAST CASES THAT HAD ENDED INCONCLUSIVELY. ASAHI EDITORIAL STATES THAT, WHILE IT CAN UNDERSTAND THE PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING THE PRESIDENT'S CONDITIONS, THE SITUATIONS IN THE US AND JAPAN ARE DIFFERENT IN THAT THE FORMER INVOLVES EFFORTS TO PROTECT STOCK-HOLDERS WHILE THE ISSUE HAS DEEP POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE IN THE LATTER. ASAHI NOTES THAT SUGGESTIONS TO THE EFFECT THAT US CONDITIONS WERE MOTIVATED BY DESIRE TO PRESERVE A FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT IN JAPAN WOULD ONLY INVITE A REACTION FROM THE JAPANESE PEOPLE WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHOOSING THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT. WITHOUT SUGGESTING RENEGOTIATION OF CONDITIONS, ASAHI URGES GOJ TO MAKE MAXIMUM USE OF US-FURNISHED INFORMATION IN PURSUING ITS OWN INVESTIGATION.

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5. IN A LOCKHEED-RELATED DEVELOPMENT, MARCH 13 PRESS REPORTS THAT PROSECUTORS INTEND TO BRING CHARGES AGAINST YOSHIO KODAMA TODAY BEFORE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS EXPIRES TONIGHT FOR EVASION OF SOME 856 MILLION YEN IN 1972 TAXES. CHARGES ARE BASED ON KODAMA'S RECEIPTS FOR 1,442 MILLION YEN FROM LOCKHEED AND OTHER FEES RECEIVED DURING YEAR.

6. OPPOSITION REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN DIET PROCEEDINGS HAS POSTPONED ANY HOPE THAT MIKI WOULD BE ABLE TO CONVENE DIET SESSION BEFORE NEXT WEEK IN ORDER TO EXPLAIN GOJ ACTIONS. PRESS REPORTS, HOWEVER, THAT HE MAY CONVENE A PRESS CONFERENCE LATER TODAY IN EFFORT TO SEEK POPULAR SUPPORT FOR RETURNING DIET TO NORMALCY. PRESENT OUTLOOK IS THAT OPPOSITION WILL DEMAND FULL DISCUSSION OF LOCKHEED AFFAIR NEXT WEEK AND THAT BUDGET DELIBERATIONS WILL NOT RESUME UNTIL END OF WEEK.

7. COMMENT. FONOFF CONTACTS OBSERVED THAT THE INITIAL REACTION TO MIKI'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL IS MORE MODERATE THAN THEY HAD FEARED. THEY ALSO REPORT RELIEF IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, WHERE THERE APPARENTLY WAS SOME QUESTION WHETHER MIKI COULD MAKE IT STICK WITHIN THE PARTY AND BEFORE THE PUBLIC.
SHOESMITH

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